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# Elder William Brewster

AND THE

## Brewster Family of Portsmouth

New Hampshire

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COLLATED BY LEWIS W. BREWSTER

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PORTSMOUTH:

PRESS OF ARTHUR G. BREWSTER

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## Elder William Brewster.



HE Ancestral Tree of the BREWSTER Family in America finds its root in the advent of Elder William Brewster, the organizer and head of the Pilgrims who came to Plymouth in 1620.

The name of Brewster appears among the old families in the reign of Edward III, as ranking with the "English landed gentry." John Brewster was witness to a deed in the parish of Henstead, in Suffolk, in the year 1375; and not long after, in the reign of Richard II, a John Brewster was presented to the rectory of Godwich, in the county of Norfolk. This Norfolk branch became connected by marriage with the distinguished houses of Denarburgh, Spelman, Gleane and Coke, of Holkham; and in the county of Suffolk, Robert Brewster, of



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Mutford, possessed also lands in Henstead, and it is stated that William Brewster, of Henstead, and Robert Brewster, of Rushmore, died possessed of these estates prior to 1482.

From this Suffolk connection a branch became established at Castle Hedington, in Essex, and formed connection with several knightly families. Our William Brewster was probably of this connection, but of his immediate ancestry and place of birth no record has been discovered. It is supposed that Scrooby, a Nottinghamshire village, was his birthplace, whither he went after leaving a responsible position in the service of Mr. William Davison, who was one of Queen Elizabeth's ambassadors, and afterwards one of her principal secretaries of state.

William Brewster was born in 1566 or 1567, and was well educated at Cambridge, from whence he entered the public service as above mentioned. He lived at Scrooby some fifteen or twenty years, and held the office of post of Scrooby for about fourteen years, occupying the manor house pertain-



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ing to the Archbishop of York, and associating with "the good gentlemen of those parts." Here was gathered the little band that afterwards constituted the Plymouth Pilgrims. Mr. Brewster became a non-conformist, and in 1607 was imprisoned at Boston, Lincolnshire. He was liberated with great expense and difficulty, and went to Leyden with a company of sympathisers. Before their final embarkation Mr. Brewster lost the most of his possessions, including valuable and choice books, through the treachery of a ship's captain who had engaged to transport the company from England. At Leyden he shared their troubles and supported himself by teaching English. In 1620 he was with them on their pilgrimage in the "Mayflower," and continued with them as their Elder, preaching often but not administering the sacraments. He was loyal to the home government, and reluctantly accepted the fact that his conscientious scruples required his separation from the established church. Until his death, April 10th, 1644, he was the acknowledged leader of the Plymouth dispensation,



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and was greatly venerated. He had, by his wife Mary, three sons, Jonathan, Love and Wrestling ; and two daughters, Patience, who married Thomas Prencé in 1624, afterwards governor of Plymouth ; and Fear, who married Isaac Allerton, first assistant to one of the governors.\*

Jonathan, the first son of Elder William Brewster, was born at Scrooby. His education was obtained only from his father, either in England or in the twelve years residence in Holland, where he was left by his father to take care of two sisters with his own family. He came to Plymouth in 1621, without his sisters. In June, 1636, he had command of the Plymouth trading house, on the Connecticut river, and gave notice to John Winthrop, governor of the fort at Saybrook, of the evil designs of the Pequots. He removed to Duxbury, which, in 1639, he represented in the general court, the earliest assembly of deputies in that colony. From Duxbury he went to New London, where

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\* Much of the above information was obtained from "The Life and Time of William Brewster," by Rev. Ashbel Steele, A. M.



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he died prior to September, 1659. By his wife, Lucretia, he had William, Mary, Jonathan, Benjamin, Ruth, Elizabeth, Grace and Hannah.

Love, the second son of Elder William, was born probably in Holland. He came with his father in the "Mayflower," removed to Duxbury, married Sarah, daughter of William Collier, May 15, 1634, and had children—Sarah, Nathaniel, William and Wrestling; the latter of whom had children—Mary, Sarah, Abigail, Jonathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Wrestling and John.

Concerning Wrestling, the youngest son of the Elder, accounts differ. Bradford says he died young and unmarried; but a record is extant that he married, in 1630, Emila Story, and had a son John. Taking benefit of the doubt, we come to the first Brewster in the local town records. The Rockingham county Court Records of 1653 (or thereabout) have an entry of the name of Wrestling Brewster, which has a questionable aspect.



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JOHN BREWSTER held land and an official position in Portsmouth. His son, John, jr., married Mary, daughter of Richard Sloper, and lived near the "Plains," two miles out of town, where a number of families had settled. June 26, 1696, the Indians made a night attack upon that settlement, burned the buildings, killed about fourteen, and maimed and inflicted personal cruelties on all within their reach. Mrs. Brewster, tomahawked and scalped, was taken up for dead between her house and the garrison, but recovered and became a mother shortly afterwards. She lived until September 22, 1744, and gave birth to four sons.—Her son Samuel built a house near where her residence was burned by the Indians. The wife of



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Samuel was Margaret Waterhouse, grand-daughter of Richard Waterhouse, who owned and occupied Peirce Island, Portsmouth, in 1688.

David Brewster, son of Samuel, married Mary (born 1739), daughter of John Gaines. Mr. Gaines, a cabinet-maker, came from Ipswich, Mass., to Portsmouth about 1724, and married, in 1727, Ruth Waterhouse of Portsmouth.

The children of David were Samuel, Mary and John Gaines. John G. died October 10, 1867, aged 89 years, 9 mos. He married, but left no children. Mary died single May 2, 1866, aged 91 years.

Samuel was born December 15, 1768. He married, June 26, 1796, Mary, second daughter of Timothy Ham, and died September 11, 1833. Their children were George Gaines, Harriet, Charles Warren, John Samuel and William Henry.

George Gaines Brewster was born April 5, 1797. After acquiring a knowledge of watch- and clock-making he studied at Andover (Mass.) Seminary and became a dental surgeon. He married, Sept. 16, 1839, Mary Ann, daughter of Thomas Berry of



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Greenland, N. H., who is living (1908) in Hampton, N. H., at the advanced age of 89 years. George G. gave especial attention to his family genealogy, and has furnished much of the information here presented. His death occurred July 7, 1872. He had one son, George Howard, born July 12, 1840, married Teressa Henley, and died Dec. 22, 1895, leaving a son, Frank Everett, born March 5, 1872, who married Mabel Sherman Thomas, daughter of Captain Thomas of Boston, and has one daughter, Dorothy Gertrude Arline, born April 4, 1905.

Harriet Brewster was born October 16, 1799, and died, single, May 12, 1870.

Charles Warren Brewster was born September 13, 1802, had a good common-school education, and entered the office of the *Portsmouth Oracle* as an apprentice February 26, 1818. He married, May 13, 1828, Mary, daughter of Ward and Hannah (Seavey) Gilman. His life was devoted to the newspaper with which he associated himself at the outset. The *Oracle* became *The Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics* in 1821, and in



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1825 he and Tobias H. Miller purchased and published it, until in 1833 he became sole proprietor. In 1853 he took his son, Lewis W., into partnership, who, in turn, became the sole publisher upon the death of his father in 1868, and conducted the paper as a weekly until May 3, 1903, assisted by his son, Arthur G., for a number of years. The *Journal* was then, in its one hundred and tenth year, merged with the *New Hampshire Gazette*. Thus for eighty-five years the name of Brewster was associated with the office of publication of the *Oracle* and *Journal*; and, referring to the files of the past seventy years, there is naturally some feeling of family pride that the character and principles of Charles W. Brewster have been so set forth by his zealous and active labors, as well as by his precept and example, which long outlived his useful earthly sojourn. And he has been prominent in his native city, not only as an editor, but as a citizen, a philanthropist, a pure and upright man, and particularly as a historian. With a mind well stored with local lore, and wielding a facile pen, he took much



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pleasure and satisfaction in historical sketches, which appeared from week to week in his newspaper, and were so pleasantly received by the public that in 1859 he compiled them into a volume of 375 octavo pages, entitling it *Rambles About Portsmouth*. It became at once a very popular book. He continued to prepare the "Rambles" for the *Journal*, and collated, just prior to his death, the copy for a second volume, which was published by Lewis W. Brewster in 1869, followed soon by a second edition of the first volume. By these works he has well earned the title of "Historian of Portsmouth," their interest as well-told stories being no less than their great historical value;—and they have been so recognized by eminent historians and *litterateurs*. They are invaluable, from the fact that they were penned just at the period when otherwise their data would have passed into oblivion; and they are now everywhere considered and received as the only standard History of Portsmouth. Their publication was providential, and Charles W. Brewster appeared to be just the one (in fact, the



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only one) to do it. The work greatly honors the man, and will be a lasting memorial of him. He well deserves the honor—for he was a good man in every sense of the word, and was held in high esteem for other qualities than those which came to public notice.

The children of Charles Warren Brewster (1) who arrived at maturity were Lewis Waterbury, Charles Gilman (died June 11, 1880), Mary Gilman (died April 30, 1894), and Helen Augusta Gilman. Five other children died in infancy.

Lewis W. was born June 30, 1830, graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1846, learned the printing and newspaper business in *The Portsmouth Journal* office, meanwhile attending Rockingham Academy, Hampton-Falls, N. H., for several terms. He married, Aug. 14, 1855, Annie Brown, daughter of Micajah Greene of Seabrook, N. H., and a lineal descendant of the sister of Meshach Weare, the first President of the province of New Hampshire. Their children were — Edith, born Jan. 11, 1860, (died Sept. 27, 1863), Edwin Francis, born Nov. 1,



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1862, (died May 16, 1864), and Arthur Gilman, born April 15, 1864. Arthur Gilman married, April 15, 1890, Angeline Eunice, daughter of Samuel S. Fletcher of Portsmouth. They have one daughter, Marie Fletcher Brewster, born April 12, 1892.

Charles Gilman Brewster, son of Charles Warren, was born Dec. 26, 1832. He became a civil engineer and went West to practise, but an injury to one of his eyes obliged him to relinquish that occupation. He then gave his attention to Natural History and had a store in that line in Boston. He lost his life in the collision of the steamer Narragansett on Long Island Sound, upon returning from a business trip to New York. He married, Sept. 8, 1864, Mary A. Hill of Bangor, Maine. Their children are—Alice Langdon, a teacher in the New Jersey State Normal School, at Trenton; Charles Warren(2), treasurer of Piscataqua Savings Bank, of Portsmouth; and Edith Gilman, devoted to kindergarten and kindred pursuits. Charles W.(2) married, Oct. 19, 1904, Martha Elizabeth, daughter



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of Charles Tredick. They have one son, Charles Tredick Brewster, born Aug. 16, 1905.

John Samuel Brewster (the third son of Samuel), born April 14, 1806, served time in a dry goods store and subsequently went into the clothing business in company with Charles Hardy. He became incapacitated for his duties by illness, and died, unmarried, Sept. 15, 1856.

William Henry Brewster (fourth son of Samuel) was born January 29, 1812. While to his brother Charles W. is assigned the literary seat of honor in the family circle, to William Henry must be given an equally high position in another department.— To him belongs the chair of enterprise and business ability. And he was a brilliant example of men of that stamp. The watch-care that he early learned to take over the earnings of younger days established in him habits of industry and economy that secured to him the financial success which he early attained. His very genial and lively temperament made him a general favorite in his early life, and he always contributed his part to the enjoyment of



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social functions. But with him it was "business before pleasure," or business and pleasure combined, and he recognized the need of adequate financial means in the pursuit of enjoyment. His business ability and correct judgment brought him into positions of public responsibility and trust, and were gladly utilized by all who could obtain his advice. After leaving school he entered the office of *The Portsmouth Journal* and learned the art of printing with his brother Charles W. About 1833 he went to Newburyport and became connected with Ephraim W. Allen in the publication of the *Newburyport Herald* (daily and weekly), which newspaper he afterwards conducted, in company with Joseph B. Morss, for twenty-two years—1834 to 1856. In 1857 he became treasurer and general manager of the *Boston Traveler*, continuing to reside in Newburyport, where he died Jan. 27, 1880. He married, in 1835, Mary Young Allen, daughter of E. W. Allen, before mentioned. Their children (besides one who died in infancy) were—

Emeline Smith Brewster, who married Rev. Mar-



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shall B. Angier. She survived her husband and died April 14, 1908, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Mary Angier Lockwood, of Binghamton, N. Y.

Mary Allen Brewster, married Isaac H. Hazelton, M. D., and has four children: Mary Brewster, Oliver Bowditch, Isaac Brewster and Margaret Page.

Margaret Allen, married Henry T. Page, and had two children: William Brewster and James Currier—the latter dying in infancy.

William Henry, jr., who married Gertrude Arline Balch and died June 27, 1904, leaving no children. He was the senior partner of the Insurance firm of Brewster Brothers of Boston and Newburyport, which has been continued since his death by the junior partner, Allen M.

Allen Morss Brewster, married Ruth Ellen Caldwell, and has a daughter, Mary, and a son, William Henry. William Henry married Frances Keniston Hurlburt of Boston, and has one daughter, Frances Keniston Brewster.

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